



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Ecuador Country Brief September 2018



Operational Context

Ecuador is an upper middle-income country; 63 percent of the population live in urban areas. Income inequality is high as evidenced by a Gini coefficient of 0.48 (National Institute of Statistic and Census – INEC 2015) and there is a significant rate of chronic malnutrition. Gender Based Violence affects six out of ten women (2015). Despite the peace process in Colombia, new refugees are still arriving in the country, in addition to an increasing number of vulnerable Venezuelans.

The country is prone to natural hazards, including droughts, floods, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes.

WFP's goal in Ecuador is to be an innovative partner, supporting government policies and priorities as well as contributing to food sovereignty, food security and nutrition of vulnerable people, and gender equality. WFP has been present in Ecuador since 1964.



Population: **16.7 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **86 out of 189**

Income Level: **Upper middle**

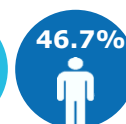
Chronic malnutrition: **23.9% of children under five years old**

In Numbers

US\$ 638,791 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 3.83 m six months (October 2018-March 2019) net funding requirements

39,086 people assisted
in September 2018



Operational Updates

- WFP's provided attention to 22,950 vulnerable people on the move. As the Venezuelan migration crisis continues, the majority of people assisted are Venezuelans (76.6 percent), followed by Colombians (22.6 percent) and 0.8 percent of other nationalities.
- During September, WFP continued providing food assistance at migration checkpoints located at the northern border with Colombia. 4,732 commodity vouchers were distributed among vulnerable Venezuelans, prioritizing pregnant and lactating women and children. Distribution was coordinated with the Government and other UN agencies.
- WFP actively participated in various working groups promoted by the Government with representatives from public institutions and international organizations to discuss the most appropriate humanitarian response to address the continuous influx of Venezuelan migrants.
- More than 8,000 people participated on the 5 km Walk for an Inclusive City organized by the Social Inclusion Department of the Municipality of Quito. WFP actively supported this event aimed at creating awareness on the importance of a city without violence and discrimination.
- WFP's Executive Director held a meeting with José Amores, Ecuadorian Chancellor, during the 73rd United Nations General Assembly. This meeting further highlighted WFP's commitment to support the Ecuadorian government policies on food safety and nutrition of the most vulnerable population.
- The Country Office has received technical assistance on corporate tools such as the Automated Disaster Analysis and Mapping (ADAM+) and WFP's beneficiary identity and benefit management system (SCOPE).

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Country Director: Mario Touchette

Further information: <https://opweb.wfp.org/country/mng/?UNC=218>

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
41.5 m	14.3 m	3.8 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome #1: Refugees, displaced persons and vulnerable people in Ecuador are enabled to meet their basic food and nutrition requirements all year long

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Complement the Government's social protection strategy by providing Cash Based Transfers to the most vulnerable populations and support in vulnerability analysis and knowledge management.
- Strengthen strategies to link sustainable livelihoods to food security and nutrition activities.

Strategic Result 3: Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition

Strategic Outcome #2: Smallholder farmers, especially women, in targeted areas, durably increase their incomes and improve their productivity by 2021.

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

- Support and increase the participation of smallholder farmer organizations in national and local commercial mechanisms and institutional markets.
- Strengthen the capacity of farmer organizations.

Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable

Strategic Outcome #3: Food-insecure communities and individuals in areas that are highly vulnerable to climate change, and government institutions have strengthened capacity for adaptation to climate change by 2021.

Focus area: Resilience

Activities:

- Strengthen or develop emergency preparedness, response, and early warning systems.
- Strengthen the implementation of adaptation and resilience measures.

Strategic Result 4: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs

Strategic Outcome #4: National institutions and programmes in Ecuador, including social protection programmes, are supported to reduce food insecurity and malnutrition by 2021.

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

- Technical assistance, research and assessments, to improve the implementation of programs linked to food security and nutrition.
- Knowledge management and sharing of best practices and studies, including through South-South cooperation.

- Since 1 April 2017, the Country Strategic Plan for Ecuador positions WFP as a strategic and public policy partner. WFP supports government efforts to achieve

SDGs 2 and 17 through four outcomes. Each strategic outcome includes activities corresponding to government priorities and WFP's experience and expertise.

- The five-year strategy envisages a decrease in WFP's direct implementation of programmes and the progressive hand-over of activities to the Government.

Challenges

- The Venezuelan crisis response is coordinated by a regional platform led by UNHCR and IOM, resulting in a number of coordination meetings at local level.

New Country Director takes office

On 01 September 2018, Mario Touchette assumed his new role as WFP Country Director for Ecuador. His broad experience in the humanitarian sector and his deep understanding of the Latin American context will strengthen WFP's actions in Ecuador.

Donors

United States of America, Republic of Korea, Adaptation Fund, CERF, Private and Multilateral donors.